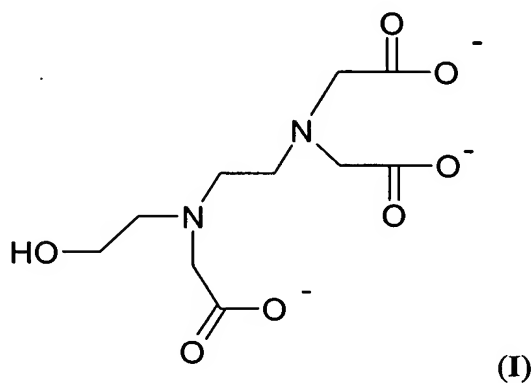


**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An aqueous solution comprising a sodium salt  $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$  of the chelating compound of formula I:



wherein  $x = 2.1 - 2.7$ ,  $y = 0.9 - 0.3$ , and  $x + y = 3$ .

2. (Original) The aqueous solution according to claim 1 comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt  $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$  of the chelating compound of formula I wherein  $x = 2.1 - 2.7$ ,  $y = 0.9 - 0.3$ , and  $x + y = 3$ .

3. (Currently Amended) A container comprising at least 0.5kg of an aqueous solution according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Use of an aqueous solution according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ for making an iron-chelate complex.

5. (Original) A method of preparing an aqueous solution comprising at least 45wt% of the sodium salt  $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$  of the chelating compound of formula **I** wherein  $x = 2.1 - 2.7$ ,  $y = 0.9 - 0.3$ , and  $x + y = 3$  from the trisodium salt of N-(2-hydroxyethyl)ethylenediamine-N,N',N'-triacetic acid ( $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$ ), comprising the step of electrodialysing at  $20^\circ\text{C}$  an aqueous solution containing less than 42 wt% of  $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$ , or at a different temperature at maximally the concentration whereby the viscosity is the same or lower than the viscosity of the 42wt%  $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$  solution at  $20^\circ\text{C}$ , using a bipolar and a cation membrane, thereby converting the  $\text{Na}_3\text{-HEDTA}$  solution to the solution of the sodium salt  $x\text{Na}^+y\text{H}^+$  of formula **I** wherein  $x = 2.1 - 2.7$ ,  $y = 0.9 - 0.3$ , and  $x + y = 3$ .

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5 wherein a caustic electrolyte is used.

7. (New) A container comprising at least 0.5kg of an aqueous solution according to claim 2.

8. (New) Use of an aqueous solution according to claim 2 for making an iron-chelate complex.